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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MCAP, NATO, US

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF UNITED STATES REPLY TO 1974 NATO

DEFENSE REVIEW QUESTIONNAIRE DPQ-74

RELEASABLE TO NATO AS NATO SECRET

1. THE US REPLY TO DPQ-74 HAS BEEN MAILED TO NATIONAL RECIPIENTS AND NATO DISTRIBUTION POINTS. AUTHORITY IS GRANTED TO RELEASE DPQ-74 INTO NATO CHANNELS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE SUBSEQUENT TO RECEIPT OF THIS MESSAGE.

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2. THE MARKING QTE SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION UNQTE (SD) ON TWO VOLUMES OF OUR SUBMISSION HAS BEEN RETAINED THIS YEAR IN ORDER TO CLEARLY IDENTIFY THE FORMER SD DATA THAT WE ARE NOW PROVIDING IN QTE NORMAL DISTRIBUTION UNQTE. THESE VOLUMES RETAIN THE SD DESIGNATOR FOR IDENTIFICATION ONLY AND SHOULD BE PLACED IN NORMAL DISTRIBUTION SPECIFIED BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE INSTRUCTIONS APPLICABLE TO DPQ-74; I.E., ALL SECTIONS OF DPQ-74 ARE TO BE GIVEN THE SAME DISTRIBUTION. (PARA 5, PAGE 4, DPQ-74 GENERAL, 25 APRIL 74). SUBSEQUENT TO IDENTIFICATION OF OTHER NATIONAL DPQ RESPONSES WHICH MAY STILL REMAIN IN THE QTE SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION UNQTE CATEGORY, MISSION SHOULD OBTAIN THIS DATA FOR WASHINGTON USE EITHER THROUGH PROCEDURES STATED IN PARA 2, PAGE 7 OF DPQ-74, GENERAL, 25 APRIL 74 OR BY SPECIFIC REQUEST TO DELEGATIONS CONCERNED.

3. YOU MAY, UPON RELEASE WISH TO HIGHLIGHT CERTAIN CHARACTERISTICS OF DPQ-74 FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE DPC.

A. FORCES REPORTED FOR CY 1975 ARE GENERALLY THE SAME AS THOSE COMMITTED FOR CY 1974. ALL MAJOR US COMBAT FORCES OTHER THAN EARMARKED AND ASSIGNED ARE SHOWN UNDER QTE OTHER FORCES UNQTE IN THIS DPQ REPLY AND THUS ARE AVAILABLE TO NATO FOR PLANNING PURPOSES.

B. QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS INCLUDE:

(1) INCREASED CONVENTIONAL COMBAT CAPABILITY WITHIN EXISTING MANPOWER LIMITATIONS AS A RESULT OF STREAMLINING HEADQUARTERS AND SUPPORT.

(2) ENHANCED ANTI-TANK CAPABILITIES.

(3) HIGHER STATES OF OPERATIONAL READINESS FOR MANY COMBAT UNITS.

(4) COSTLY AND EFFECTIVE MODERNIZATION IN ALL ELEMENTS OF OUR FORCE STRUCTURE.

(5) IMPROVEMENT OF SIGNALS INTELLIGENCE CAPABILITIES.

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(6) UPGRADING OF ECM CAPABILITIES.

(7) AN IMPRESSIVE NUMBER OF NEWLY CONSTRUCTED SHIPS AND MODERNIZED UNITS EQUIPPED WITH THE LATEST WEAPON AND SENSOR SYSTEMS.

(8) SIGNIFICANT MODERNIZATION OF THE MARINE COMMITMENT.

C. THE AIR FORCE COMMITMENT IS SIGNIFICANTLY INCREASED BY AN ADDITIONAL SEVEN TACTICAL FIGHTER SQUADRONS AND ONE TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRON EARMARKED TO SACEUR'S STRATEGIC AIR RESERVE IN CATEGORY A-3.

THE TOTAL NUMBER OF TACTICAL COMBAT AIRCRAFT LISTED IN THE DPQ AS DEPLOYING TO EUROPE IS INCREASED BY THE ADDITION OF THREE SQUADRONS OF FIGHTER/ATTACK AIRCRAFT (M PLUS 10/30).

D. AREAS OF POSSIBLE NATO REACTION:

(1) IN DPQ-74, ALL NAVY UNITS HAVE BEEN FOOTNOTED TO INDICATE THAT THEY MAY BE TEMPORARILY REDUCED TO A LOWER MC 55/2 AVAILABILITY CATEGORY. THIS NOTATION DOES NOT REDUCE THE NUMBER OF SHIPS OR NAVAL AIRCRAFT ALLOCATED TO

NATO IN 1975. THE FOOTNOTE HAS BEEN INSERTED TO INSURE THAT UNFORESEEN MATERIAL PROBLEMS DO NOT HAVE A DISRUPTIVE EFFECT ON FLEET EMPLOYMENT SCHEDULES AND TO ALLOW THE US NAVY THE FLEXIBILITY REQUIRED TO UTILIZE MORE EFFECTIVELY EXISTING ASSETS. THE NOTATION INFORMS NATO OF CONDITIONS WHICH HAVE PERTAINED FOR SOME TIME AND HOPEFULLY WILL OBTAIN THE NECESSITY FOR CONSTANTLY REPORTING CHANGES AT POLITICAL LEVELS WHEN SHIPS ARE TRANSFERRED BETWEEN NATO COMMANDS. WE BELIEVE SUCH A NOTATION IS A BETTER ALTERNATIVE THAN REPORTING SHIPS AS A-1/3 AS COULD BE DONE UNDER MC 55/2 PROCEDURES.

(2) BEYOND THE COMMITMENT YEARS OF 1974 AND 1975, AIRCRAFT CARRIERS SHOW REDUCED AVAILABILITY WHICH AFFECTS ONE CARRIER EARMARKED TO SACEUR AND ONE TO SACLAN. THIS ALERT TO POSSIBLE CHANGE IS IN ANTICIPATION OF THE
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REALITIES OF REDUCED ASSETS AND THE ABSENCE OF OVERSEAS HOMEPORTING, COUPLED WITH THE NECESSITY TO MAINTAIN PEACETIME SHIP MAINTENANCE AND DEPLOYMENT CYCLES. YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE THAT WE DO, OF COURSE, EXPECT TO DISCUSS THESE FUTURE AVAILABILITY CHANGES WITH NATO PRIOR TO POSSIBLE IMPLEMENTATION WITH THE OBJECTIVE OF GAINING ACCEPTANCE OF COMPENSATING MEASURES.

(3) NATO IS ALERTED TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT TWO IN-PLACE RECONNAISSANCE SQUADRONS (RF-4) MAY BE REPLACED BY TWO IN-PLACE FIGHTER/ATTACK SQUADRONS IN 1976. THIS REFLECTS POSSIBLE CHANGES IN THE SIZE AND DEPLOYMENT OF OUR ACTIVE TACTICAL RECONNAISSANCE FORCES.

4. PLEASE NOTIFY WASHINGTON OF DATE DPQ-74(US) IS

RELEASED TO NATO REGISTRIES.

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